

[REDACTED] 409-63  
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19 March 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)**  
**SUBJECT : A Bit of History**

- 21 January 1959 - Discoverer No. 0:  
Thor-Agena burned on its pad at attempted launch.
- 28 February 1959 - Discoverer No. 1:  
Reached orbit with a light weight engineering payload.  
No recovery was planned.
- 13 April 1959 - Discoverer No. 2:  
Reached orbit with a light weight biomedical payload.  
Recovery was unsuccessful.
- 3 June 1959 - Discoverer No. 3:  
Failed to reach orbit with a biomedical payload.
- 25 June 1959 - Discoverer No. 4:  
Failed to reach orbit with the first camera payload.
- 13 August 1959 - Discoverer No. 5:  
Reached orbit with a camera payload. Recovery was  
unsuccessful.
- 10 August 1960 - Discoverer No. 13:  
Reached orbit with an engineering payload. First  
successful recovery from the sea was made.
- 18 August 1960 - Discoverer No. 14:  
Reached orbit with a camera payload. Recovery was  
successful for the first time of a film payload and  
for the first time by air pickup.

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[REDACTED]  
1 Analysis and Evaluation Staff  
(Special Activities)

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